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GENTRIFICATION HAS ACCELERATED IN NYC'S LOWER EAST SIDE SINCE THE CITY FENCED OFF TOMPKIN'S SQUARE PARK IN A PROPERTY WAR AGAINST THE POOR...

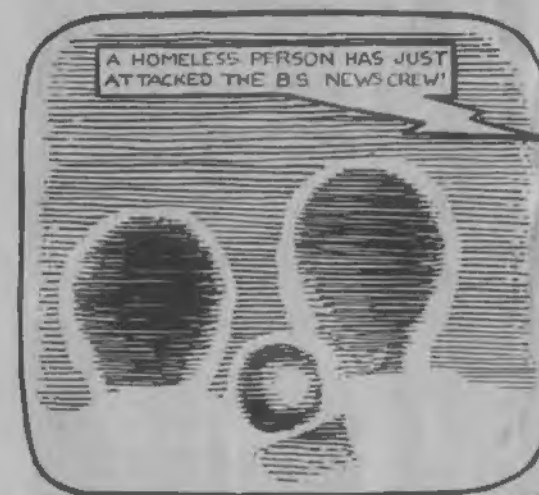
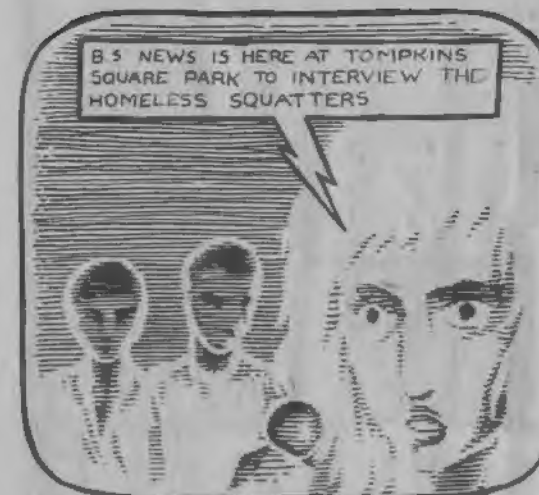
SQUAT NYC

CHAPTER TWO

LAWRENCE VAN ABBEMA 91



SQUAT N.Y.C. chapter one
appeared in Squatter Comix #1





CLOSING THE PARK IS THE FIRST STEP TO GENTRIFICATION OF THE WHOLE LOWER EAST SIDE!



THE CITY'S NEXT PLAN IS TO GET RID OF THE SQUATS THEMSELVES BECAUSE WE STAND IN THE WAY OF REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS!



YOU GUYS SIT AROUND GETTING MORE APATHETIC EVERY DAY WHILE THE LANDLORDS AND CITY GOONS ARE AT OUR DOOR!



THEY COULD COME IN TOMORROW AND CLOSE OUR SQUAT THE SAME WAY THEY CLOSED THE PARK!



THIS'LL CALM HIM DOWN!

HEY, RELAX HAVE A DRINK

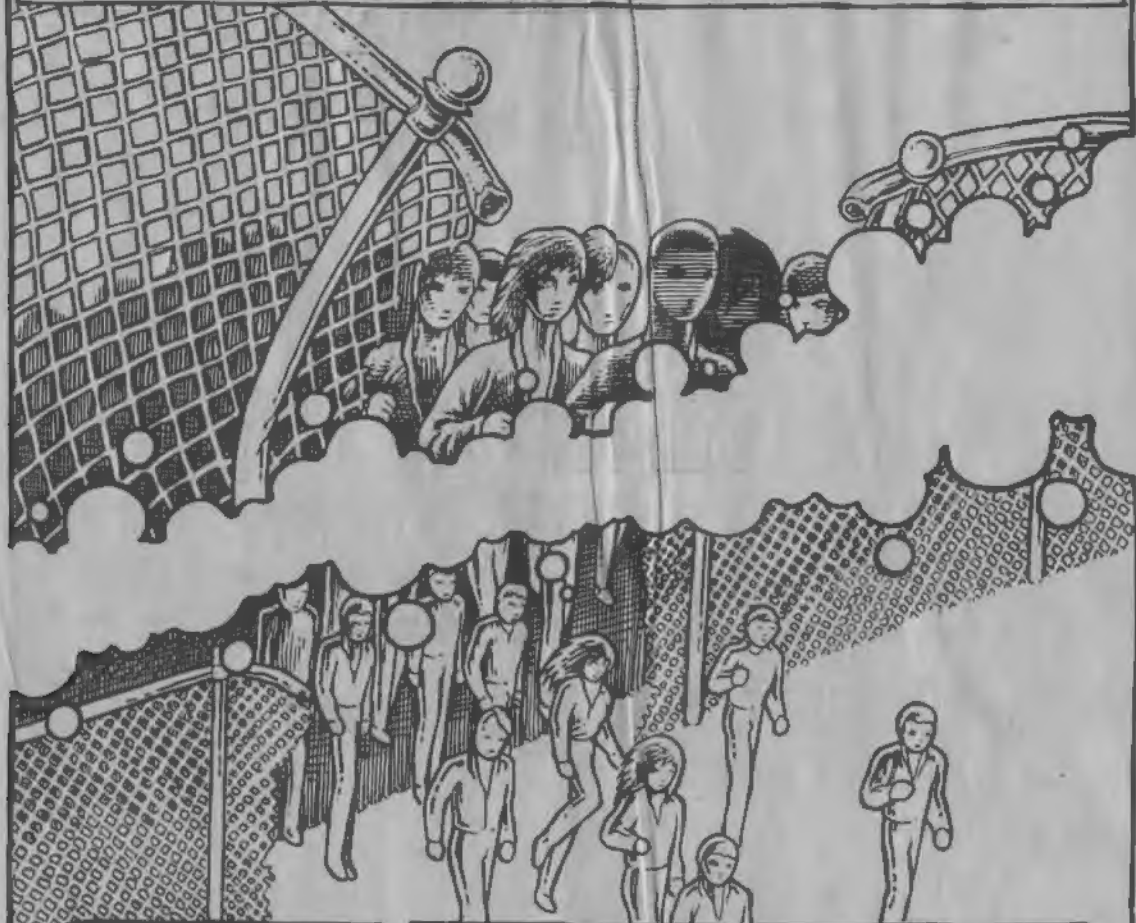


ALL OF A SUDDEN I'M OVERTAKEN BY THIS STRANGE DREAM WHERE ALL THE HOMELESS PEOPLE AND SQUATTERS ARE UNIFIED INTO ONE ARMY AND THE COMMUNITY NO LONGER BELONGS TO THE CITY GOVERNMENT!



WE ARE THE COMMUNITY, AND THE POLICE, THE WATCHDOGS FOR THE CITY AND STATE ARE CRUSHED BY OUR ANGER AND NUMBERS, THIS LAND IS RIGHTFULLY OURS -

THE FENCES IMPRISONING THE PEOPLE ARE TORN DOWN AND THE PRISONS OF GREED ARE DESTROYED!



EVERY ABANDONED BUILDING



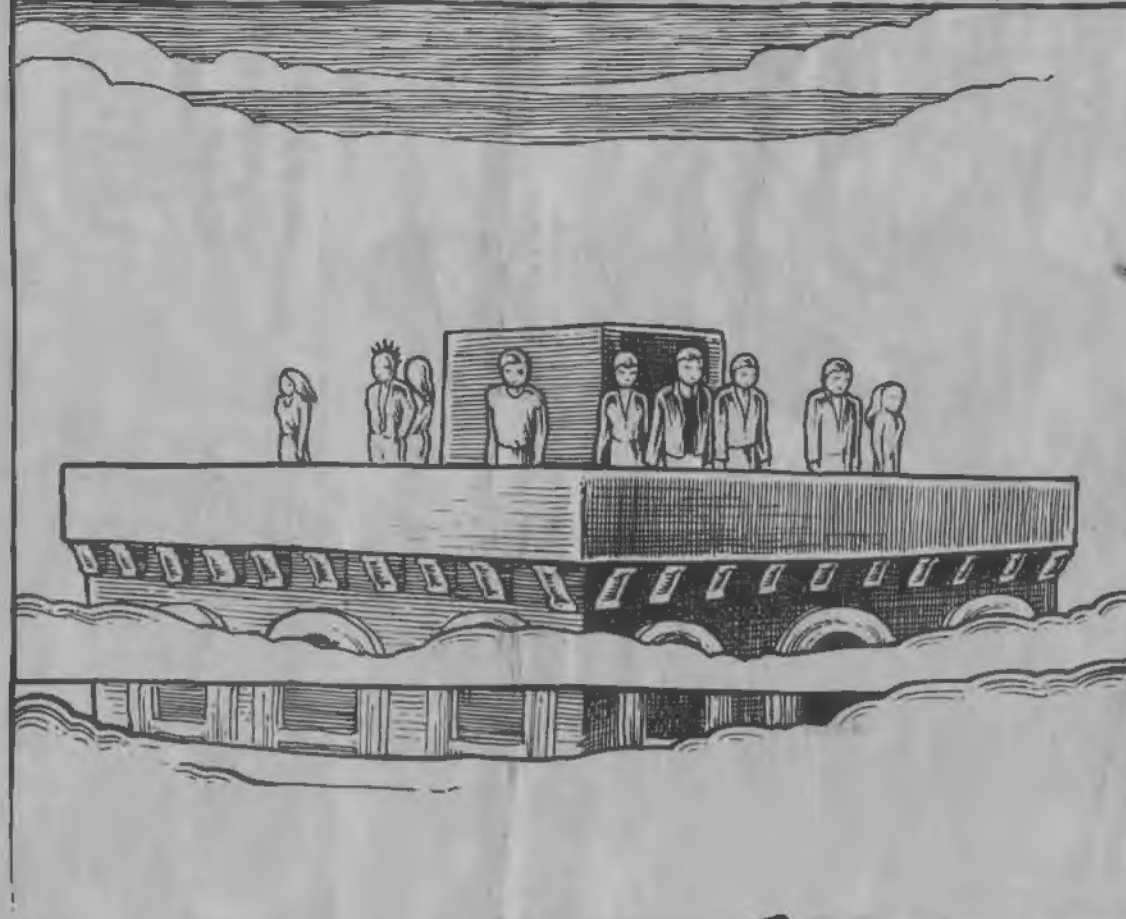
AND WAREHOUSED APARTMENT



BECOMES OUR SQUAT —



PEACE AND BROTHERHOOD ARE RESTORED IN THE LOWER EAST SIDE AND EVERYONE HAS A HOME AND A COMMUNITY THAT WORKS FOR THE PEOPLE INSTEAD OF AN ELITE MINORITY —



END

AM I IN MY SQUAT DREAMING OF TELEVISION ? OR

IN DOCTRINE NATION
AS I LAY
SLEEPING



MY TV
SET WAS
JUMPED &

BRAIN
WASHED
I DREAMED

I SAW
MY VIRTUAL
SELF
TEMPTED

CAKE!

TORTURED

CRUCIFIED

TODAY'S
MAKE OVER

& RESURRECTED

WHEN I AWOKE
I HAD THE POWER



TO USE TELEVISION
TO HEAL
MEANWHILE

THERE WAS A
STORM
INSIDE MY HEAD



POISON FOOD
IN STORES NOW
EVERYWHERE

A TELEVISION
SCREEN WAS
FEEDING ME IN
FORMATION LIKE
IT WAS THINKING
FASTER

WORDS



I WAS REACHING
A CRITICAL INTAKE
OF VIRTUAL NUTRITION



BUT
ALL I COULD FEEL
WAS A HUNGER THAT
WOULD CONSUME ME



THE SCREEN WAS
TELLING ME TO

REPORT
EVERYTHING
TO EVERY
ONE TO
ANYONE



MY FOREHEAD
AT MY THIRD EYE



STARTED TO
BLEED WITH THE
PRESSURE OF
KNOWING SO MUCH
ABOUT
NOTHING



I MARKED MY



FACE
WITH RED
WAR STRIPES
FROM THE BLOOD

SUDDENLY
A BOY WAS THROWN
IN TO MY
ROOM



AS IF
TO A
WILD
ANIMAL



I DON'T
KNOW HOW
TO HELP
YOU!

& HE SAID

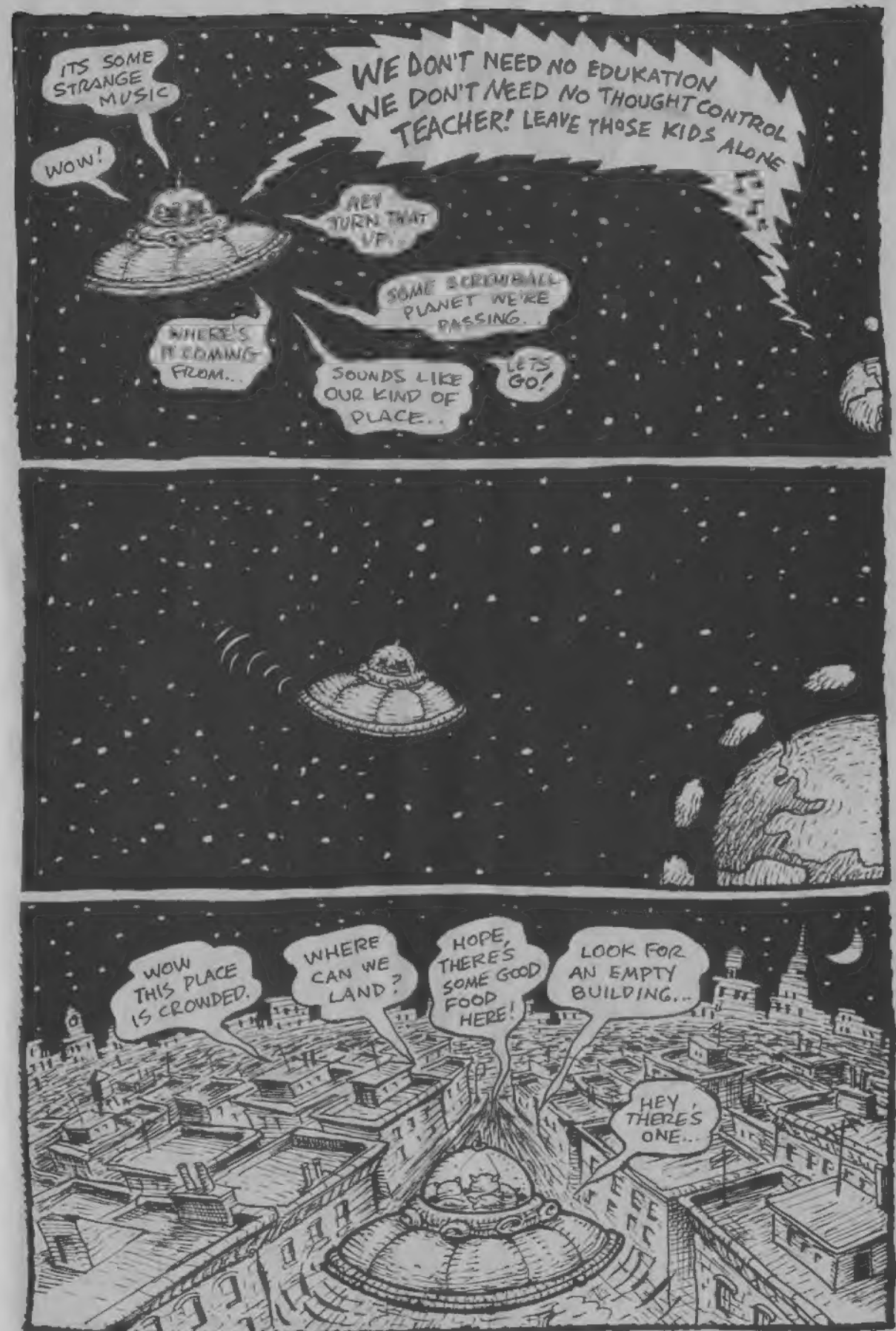
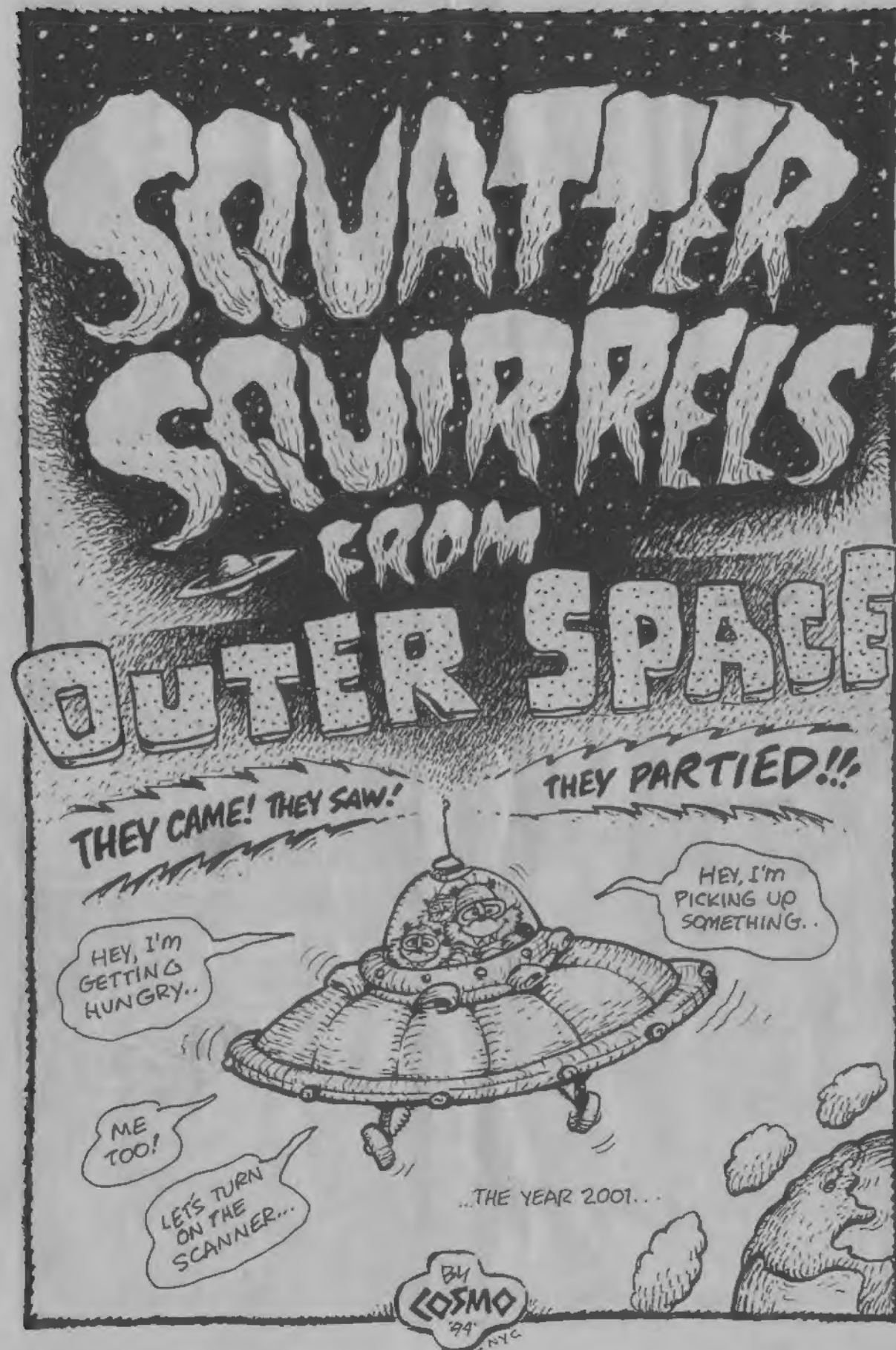
I JUMPED
ON HIM AND
CONSUMED HIM
RAVENOUSLY



I WAS
WILD & BLIND
& STARVING



AROUND ME LAY THE
ROTTEN CORPSES OF ALL
MY BRIGHT IDEAS

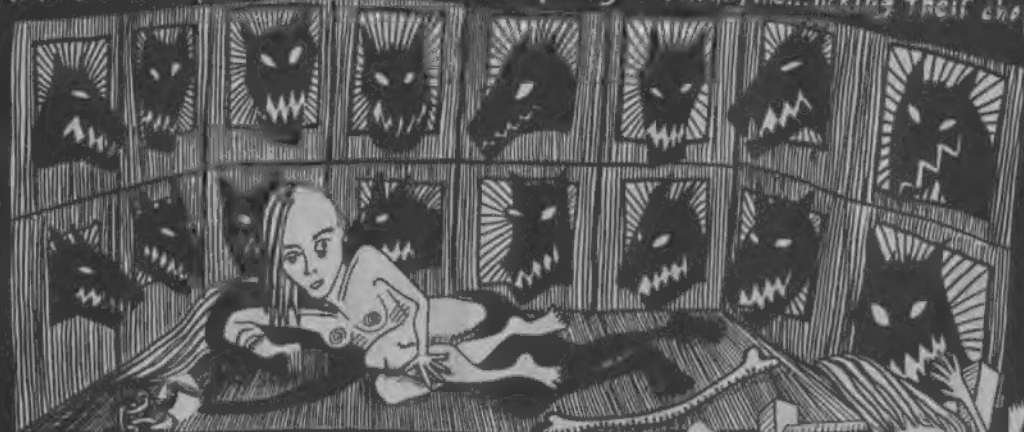




IN DOCTRINE NATION

I Awoke to find my self surrounded by DOGS... I realized that they were Police dogs... I had fallen Asleep in the CORDOG KENNELS... I was lying ON a raised metal platform... the dogs were quietly watching me... licking their chops...

by FLY... © '92



ON the floor beside me were ankle shackles AND A bone licked clean... I understood that these were



WARNING SIGNS but not necessarily for me... I understood that this is where the Police would send their own to be chained & spit at from another platform in a game called THE TARGET IS MY FRIEND I escaped down a ladder & through the air ducts of the MILITARY INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX



When I finally got OUTSIDE I found my self ON the corner of Ave. C & 3rd St... there was a man giving me a plastic bag full OF SOUP from a garbage CAN



MEANWHILE

A round the CORNER... there are 2- kids who have just arrived in New York City from the SUBURBS... they are wearing t-shirts that say "VIOLENCE" they are DRUNK... AND they are SCREAMING and throwing GARBAGE

SOME OF THE PEOPLE in the NEIGHBOURHOOD

WANT to kill THEM...



THROUGH THE LOWEAST SIDE



TO THE ABANDONED BUILDINGS,

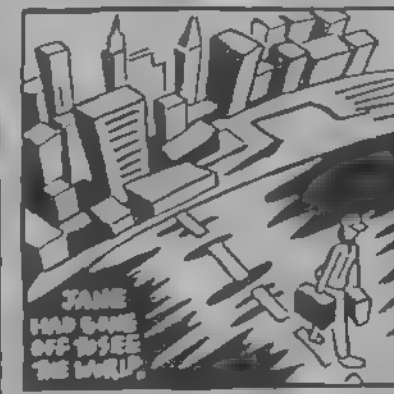
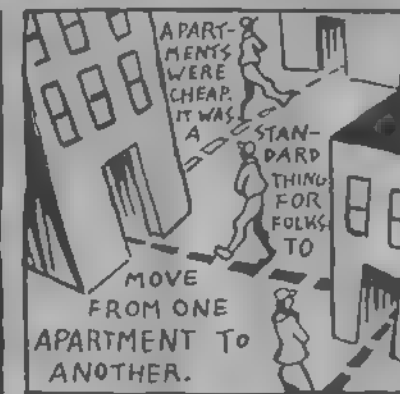


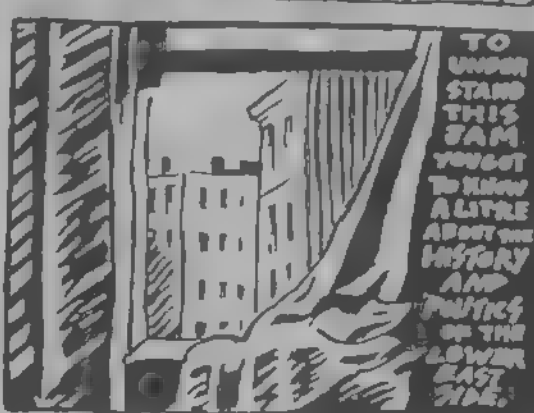
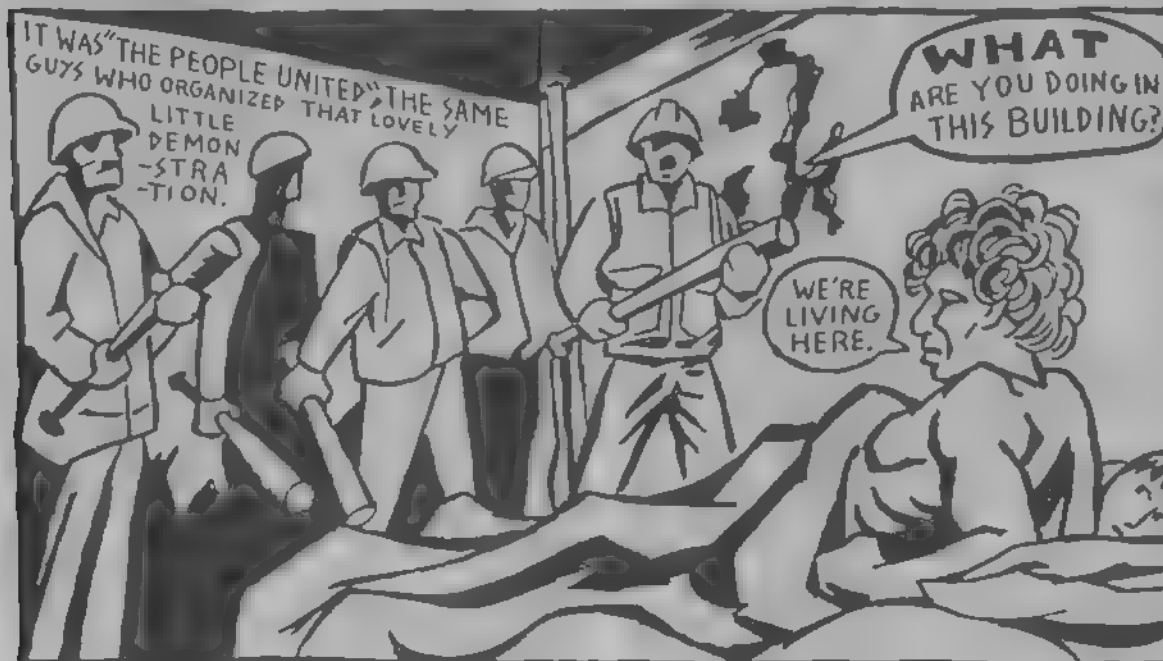
LEAVING THEIR MARK ON EACH ONE.



THE PEOPLE, UNITED, WILL NEVER BE DEFEATED! THE PEOPLE...









IF AMERIKKAN SOCIETY HAS AN ORIFICE, A MOUTH THROUGH WHICH IT BREATHES, AN ASSHOLE THROUGH WHICH IT SHITS, IT IS THE LOWER EASTSIDE OF MANHATTAN. WHICH ORIFICE IT IS DEPENDS ON WHO YOU ASK AND WHAT THEIR POLITICAL AGENDA IS. LETS JUST CALL IT THE 'POOR'. NEW PEOPLE WITH NEW IDEAS HAVE BEEN COMING THROUGH THAT DOOR FOR AS LONG AS THERE WAS A LOWER EAST SIDE. THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN A CHEAP AND EASY PLACE TO LIVE WHERE POOR PEOPLE COULD MAKE A START PAYING LOW RENTS TO LIVE IN CONDITIONS. IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN A MAGNET FOR SOCIETY'S MAL-CONTENTS.

GIVE ME YOUR TIRED YOUR POOR, WE'LL KICK YOUR ASS.

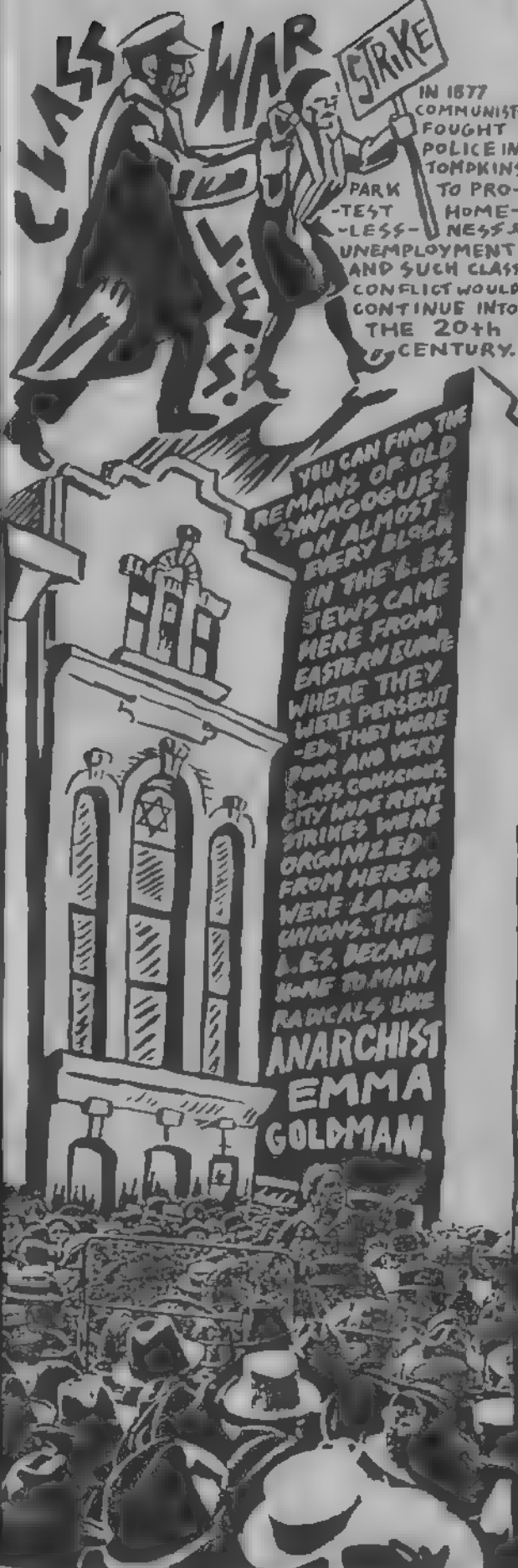
THE JOLLY ROGER MAY BE THE FIRST FLAG OF THE L.E.S. THE AREA WAS ORIGINALLY A SWAMP AND A GOOD PLACE TO HIDE BOATS.

ON THE WATER FRONT RIVER PIRATES WOULD RIP OFF SHIPS COMING INTO NEW YORK HARBOR

MANY OF THE FIRST RESIDENTS OF THE L.E.S. WERE PRICED BLACK SLAVES WHO WERE GIVEN LAND ALONG THE RIVER AGAINST INDIANS.

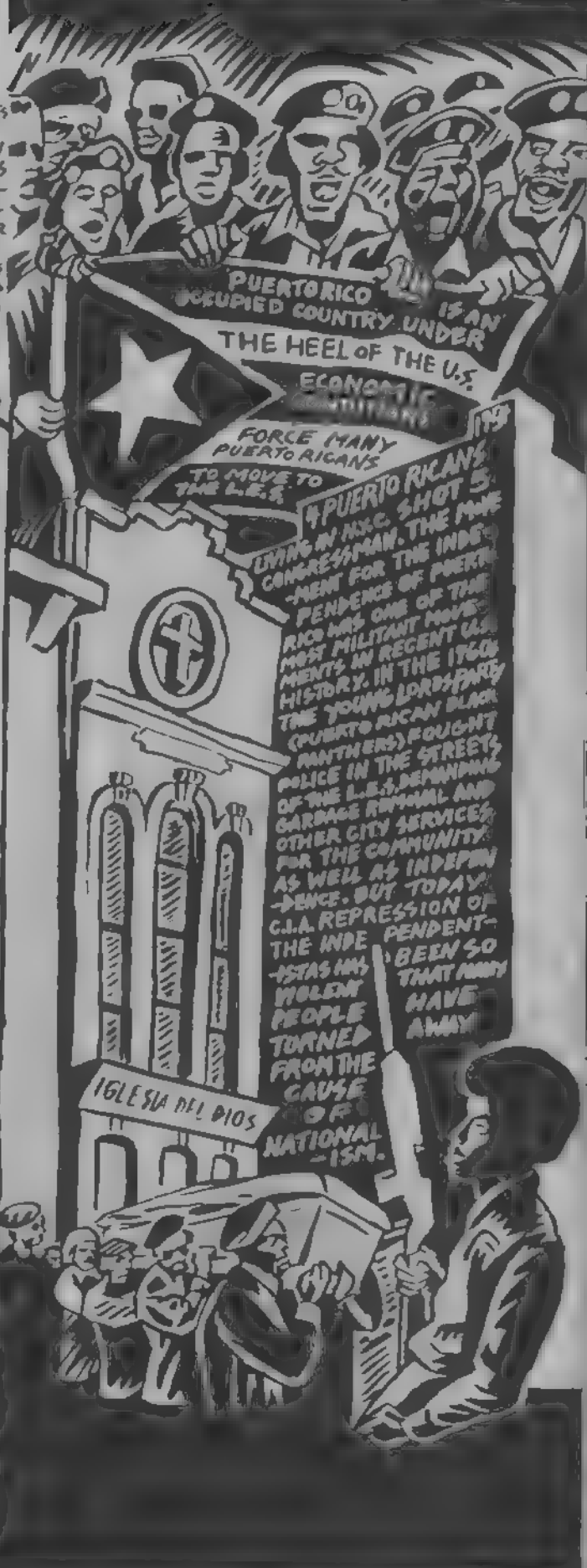
FLEEING GENOCIDE AT THE HANDS OF THE BRITISH, THE IRISH CAME TO THE L.E.S. IN THE 1800'S. IN 1863 THEY RIOTED TO PROTEST BEING DRAFTED INTO THE CIVIL WAR THEY WERE POOR AND WERE ANGRY THAT THE RICH COULD BUY THEIR WAY OUT OF THE DRAFT. THEY BURNED THE HOMES OF THE RICH BUT ALSO LYNCHED BLACKS

THE TRADITION OF IRISH NATIONALISM ON THE L.E.S. CONTINUES. IN 1993 FATHER PATRICK MALONEY WAS CHARGED WITH ASSISTING THE ROBBERY OF A BRINKS TRUCK AND GIVING THE MONEY TO THE I.R.A. AND THE POOR



IN 1877 COMMUNISTS FOUGHT POLICE IN TOMPKINS PARK TO PROTEST HOME-LESS-NESS AND UNEMPLOYMENT AND SUCH CLASS CONFLICT WOULD CONTINUE INTO THE 20th CENTURY.

YOU CAN FIND THE REMAINS OF OLD SYNAGOGUES ON ALMOST EVERY BLOCK IN THE L.E.S. JEWS CAME HERE FROM EASTERN EUROPE WHERE THEY WERE PERSECUTED. THEY WERE POOR AND VERY CLASS CONSCIOUS. CITY WIDE RENT STRIKES WERE ORGANIZED FROM HERE AS WERE LABOR UNIONS. THE L.E.S. BECAME HOME TO MANY RADICALS LIKE ANARCHIST EMMA GOLDMAN.



PUERTO RICO IS AN OCCUPIED COUNTRY UNDER THE HEEL OF THE U.S.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS FORCE MANY PUERTO RICANS TO MOVE TO THE L.E.S.

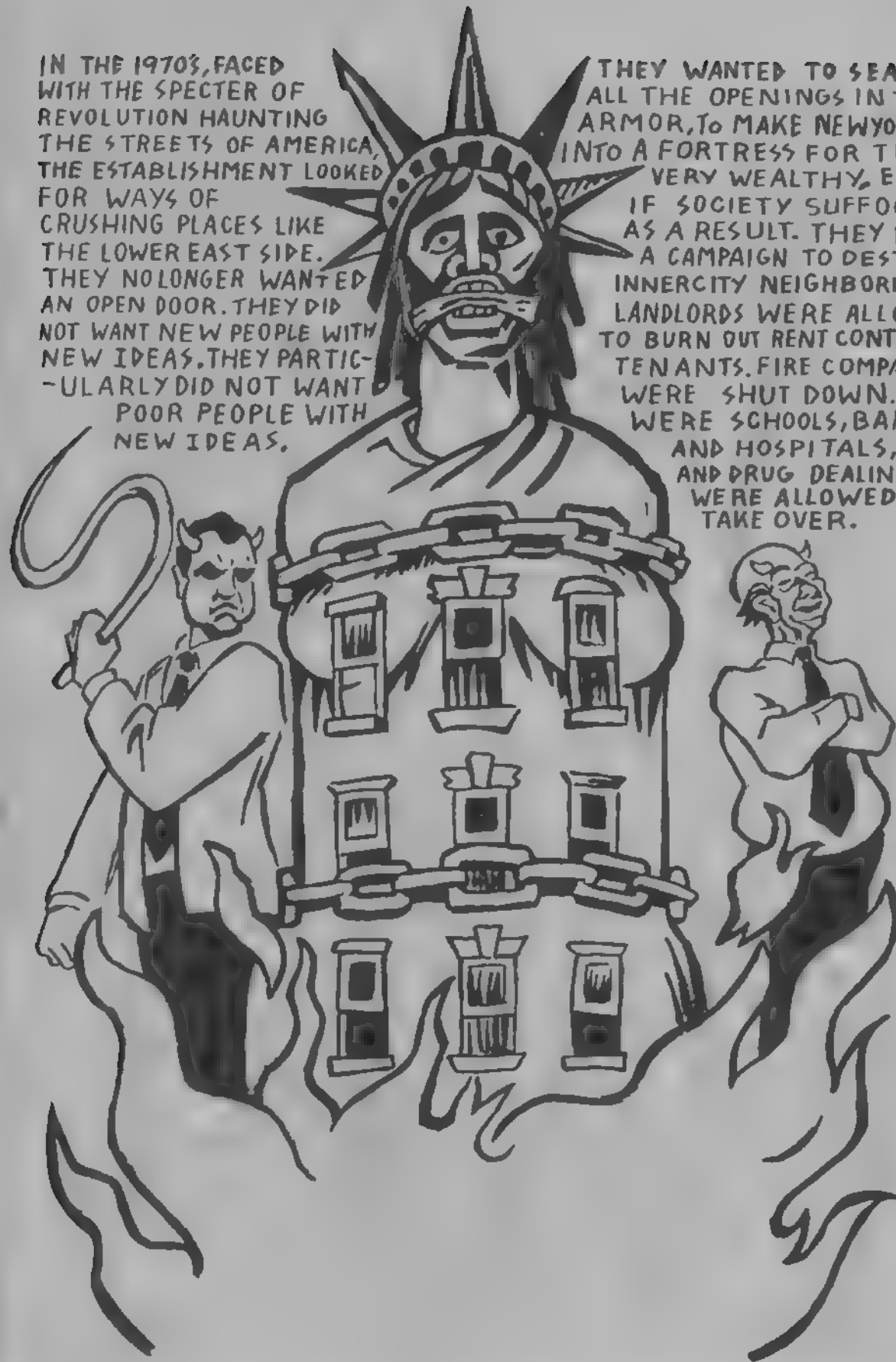
4 PUERTO RICANS LIVING IN NYC. SHOT 5 CONGRESSMAN. THE INDEPENDENCE OF PUERTO RICO WAS ONE OF THE MOST MILITANT MOVEMENTS IN RECENT U.S. HISTORY. IN THE 1960S THE YOUNG LORDS (PUERTO RICAN BLACK PANTHERS) FOUGHT POLICE IN THE STREETS OF THE L.E.S. DEMANDING GARBAGE REMOVAL AND OTHER CITY SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY AS WELL AS INDEPENDENCE. BUT TODAY, C.I.A. REPRESSION OF THE INDEPENDENT-ISTAS HAS BEEN SO VIOLENT THAT MANY PEOPLE HAVE TURNED FROM THE CAUSE OF NATIONAL-ISM.

IGLESIA DEL DIOS



IN THE 1970'S, FACED WITH THE SPECTER OF REVOLUTION HAUNTING THE STREETS OF AMERICA, THE ESTABLISHMENT LOOKED FOR WAYS OF CRUSHING PLACES LIKE THE LOWER EAST SIDE. THEY NO LONGER WANTED AN OPEN DOOR. THEY DID NOT WANT NEW PEOPLE WITH NEW IDEAS. THEY PARTICULARLY DID NOT WANT POOR PEOPLE WITH NEW IDEAS.

THEY WANTED TO SEAL UP ALL THE OPENINGS IN THEIR ARMOR, TO MAKE NEW YORK INTO A FORTRESS FOR THE VERY WEALTHY, EVEN IF SOCIETY SUFFOCATED AS A RESULT. THEY BEGAN A CAMPAIGN TO DESTROY INNERCITY NEIGHBORHOODS. LANDLORDS WERE ALLOWED TO BURN OUT RENT CONTROLLED TENANTS. FIRE COMPANIES WERE SHUT DOWN. AS WERE SCHOOLS, BANKS AND HOSPITALS, CRIME AND DRUG DEALING WERE ALLOWED TO TAKE OVER.



SO WHERE WERE THE NEIGHBORHOOD RADICALS WHILE ALL THIS WENT ON?

WHY WEREN'T THE YUPPIE BARS BURNING THE NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING ACTIVISTS AND MADE DEALS, FOR EXAMPLE, THEY CAME UP WITH SOMETHING CALLED THE 50-50 CROSS SUBSIDY PLAN, UNDER WHICH ABANDONED PROPERTIES WOULD BE SOLD TO LANDLORDS TO MAKE LUXURY HOUSING. THE MONEY GENERATED BY THE SALE WOULD BE GIVEN TO THE ACTIVISTS TO FIX UP OTHER BUILDINGS TO MAKE SO CALLED "MODERATE INCOME HOUSING" (NOT CHEAP). THUS A SMALL AMOUNT OF HOUSING WAS CREATED, ENOUGH FOR THEIR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS, NOT ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE. HONEST ACTIVISTS WERE AGAINST THE CROSS SUBSIDY PLAN, SAID IT WAS A SELL OUT OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD. THE PEOPLE WERE NOT UNITED!

NO DOUBLE-CROSS SUBSIDY ON THE LOWER EAST SIDE

YES! WE WANT CROSS-SUBSIDY ON THE L.E.S.!

H.P.D. ONLY GAVE US A FEW BUILDINGS.

WE CAN'T HOUSE ALL OF YOU!



SO WITH HALF THE COMMUNITY SUPPORTING ADAM AND HALF ROOTING FOR THE BULLDOZERS...

HOMES NOT GARDENS

THE GARDEN OF EDEN WAS DESTROYED.

AND NOW THESE SAME SOLD OUT ACTIVISTS
WERE TRYING TO TURN THE NEIGHBORHOOD
AGAINST JOHN AND JANE. THEY PORTRAYED THE
SQUATTERS AS WHITE YUPPIE INVADERS. THERE
WAS MUCH RIGHTEOUS ANGER IN THE COMMUNITY
AGAINST MIDDLE CLASS PEOPLE MOVING IN AND
TAKING OVER. BUT "THE PEOPLE UNITED" WERE
NOT BREAKING INTO CONDOMINIUMS AND
THREATENING THE RICH AND FAMOUS
WITH BASEBALL BATS. AT A TIME
WHEN THE ACTIVISTS WERE
NOT REALLY FIGHTING
THE SYSTEM, JOHN AND
JANE MADE A PERFECT
SCAPEGOAT.

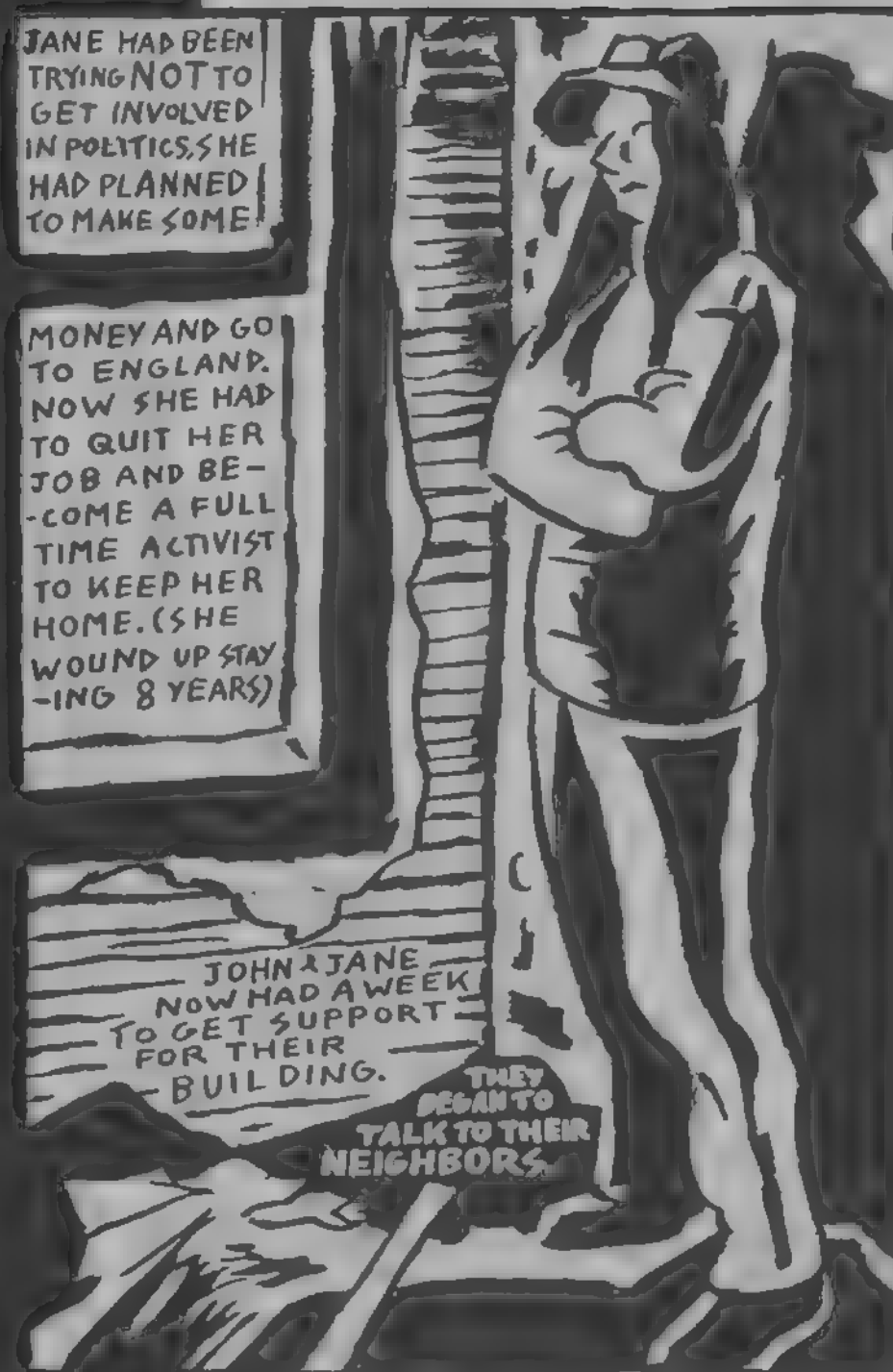


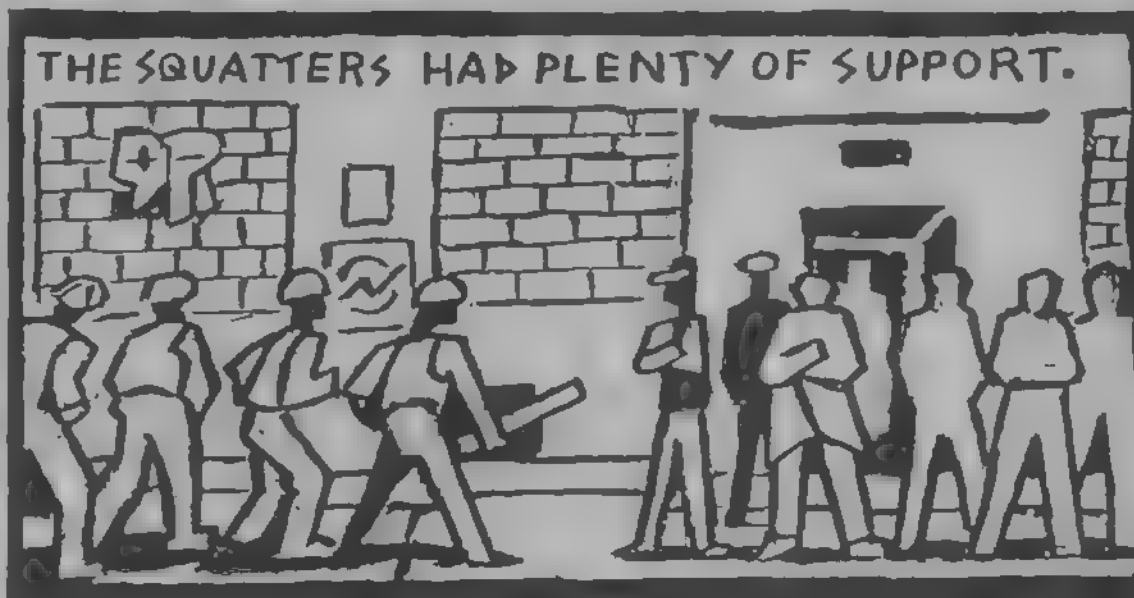
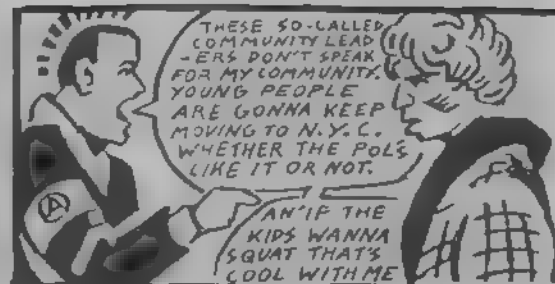
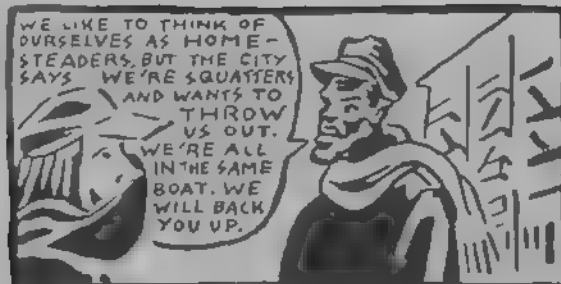
JANE HAD BEEN
TRYING NOT TO
GET INVOLVED
IN POLITICS. SHE
HAD PLANNED
TO MAKE SOME

MONEY AND GO
TO ENGLAND.
NOW SHE HAD
TO QUIT HER
JOB AND BE-
COME A FULL
TIME ACTIVIST
TO KEEP HER
HOME. (SHE
WOULD UP STAY-
ING 8 YEARS)

JOHN & JANE
NOW HAD A WEEK
TO GET SUPPORT
FOR THEIR
BUILDING.

THEY
BEGAN TO
TALK TO THEIR
NEIGHBORS.





THE PEOPLE UNITED
HAD TURNED OUT
TO BE NOTHING
MORE THAN A
PAPER TIGER
THEY WERE
RIGHT ABOUT
ONE THING,
THE COPS
WOULD COME.
BUT THE
SQUATTERS
WOULD HAVE
A GREAT DEAL
OF SUPPORT. A
NEW GENERATION OF
REVOLUTIONARIES
WAS COMING UP,
SICK OF THE LIES OF
THE REAGAN ERA.

THE PEOPLE WERE
LOSING PATIENCE.
THEY HAD NO TIME
FOR THE DEALS AND
50-50 PLANS OF
THE POLITICIANS.
THEY WANTED A
SIMPLE ENEMY
THEY COULD THROW
A BRICK AT. THEY
WOULD TAKE UP
THE BANNER OF
THE SQUATTERS.
SOON THE PEOPLE
WOULD MEET THE
PIGS AND THE
NEIGHBORHOOD
WOULD EXPLODE
ONCE MORE.

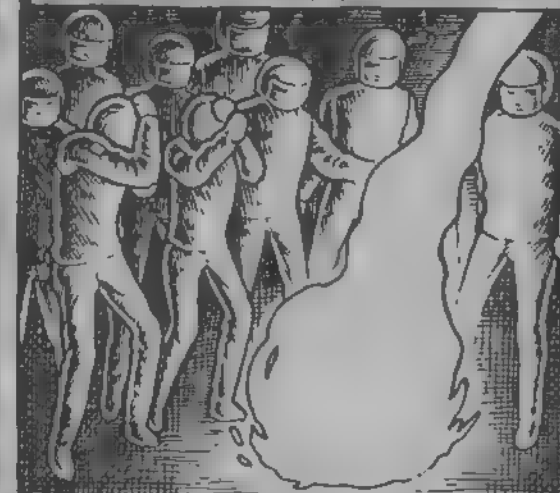


THIS IS AN EXCERPT FROM
WAR IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD
A GRAPHIC NOVEL BY SETH TOBOCMAN
SOON TO BE PUBLISHED BY AUTONOMEDIA

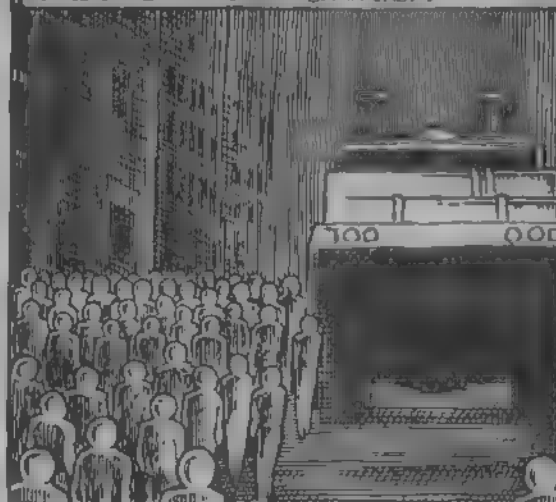
500 SQUATTERS BATTLED RIOT POLICE IN BERLIN
WHEN MAINSERSTRASSE SQUAT WAS EVICTED



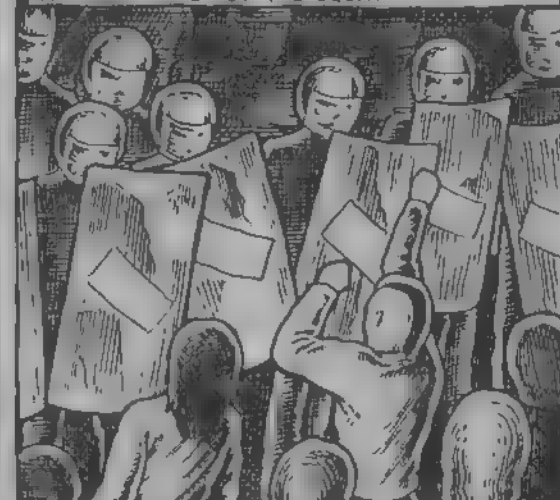
THEY WERE ABLE TO FIGHT THE COPS OFF WITH
MOLOTOV COCKTAILS AND SLINGSHOTS



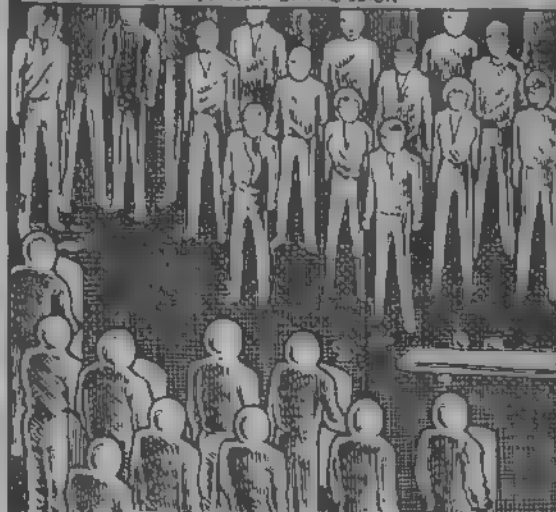
EVENTUALLY THOUSANDS OF FULLY EQUIPPED RIOT
POLICE BROKE THROUGH THE BARRICADES



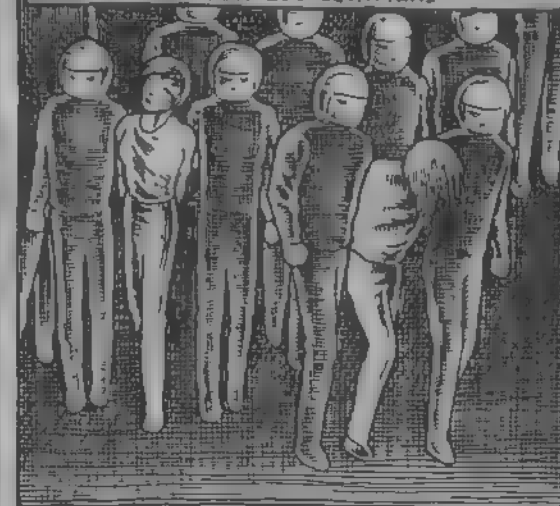
370 PEOPLE WERE ARRESTED IN THE ENSUING
STRUGGLE TO EVICT THE SQUAT



MA NSESTRASSE REMAINS A SYMBOL OF THE ABILITY
TO FIGHT BACK AGAINST OPPRESSION



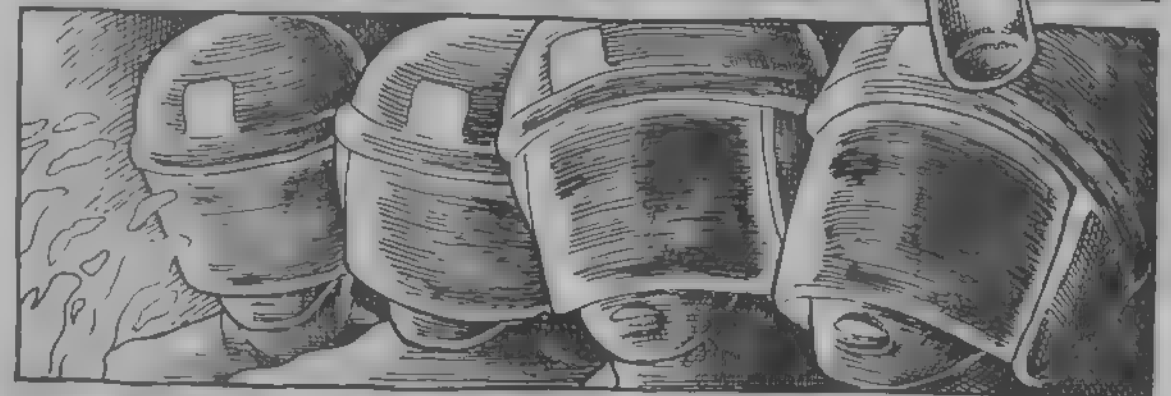
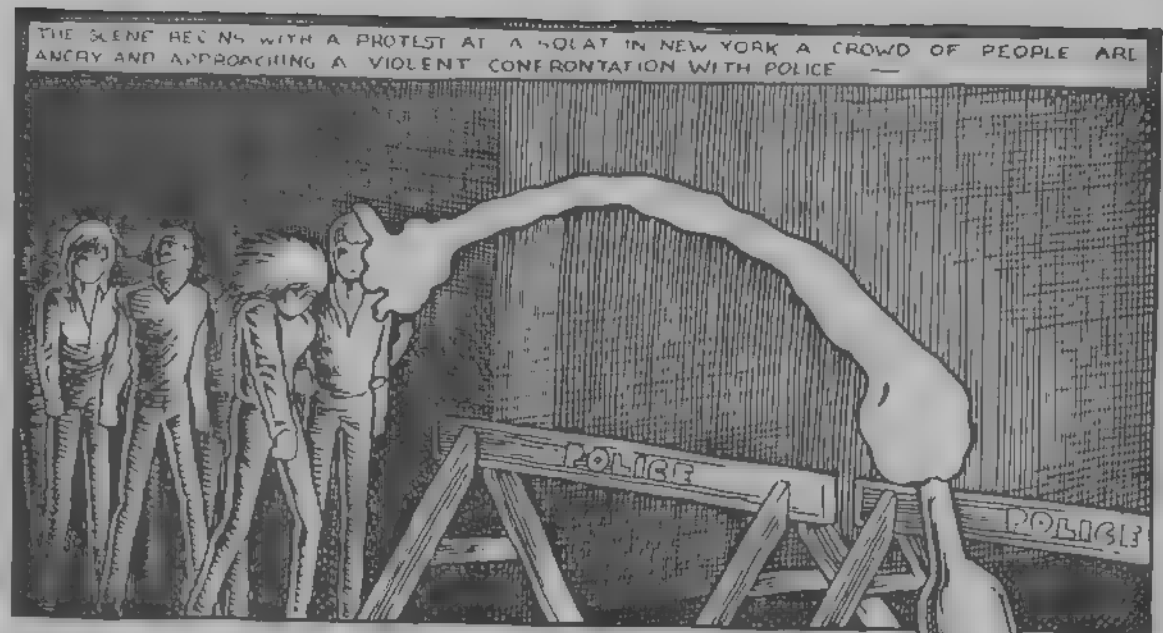
IN SPITE OF THE OVERWHELMING DEFEAT AND THE
LOSS OF HOMES FOR 200 SQUATTERS

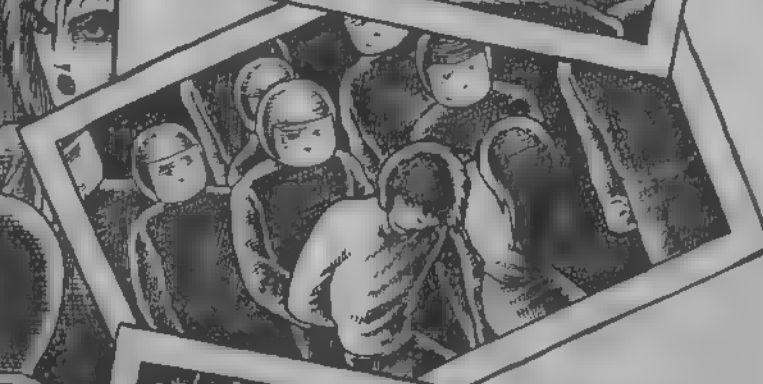
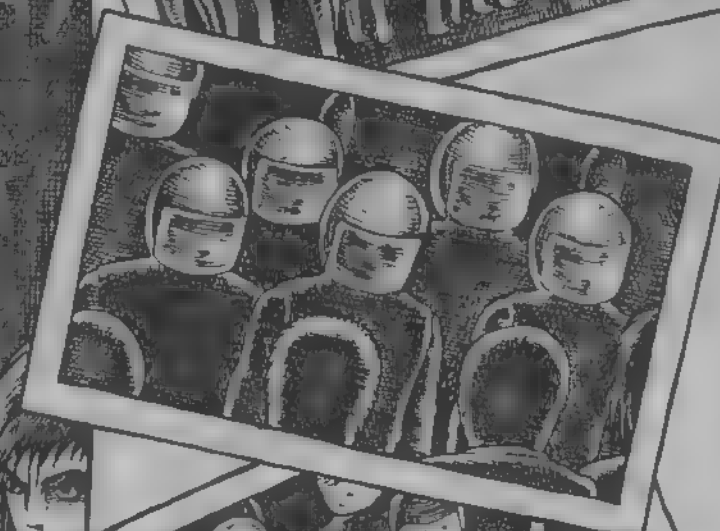
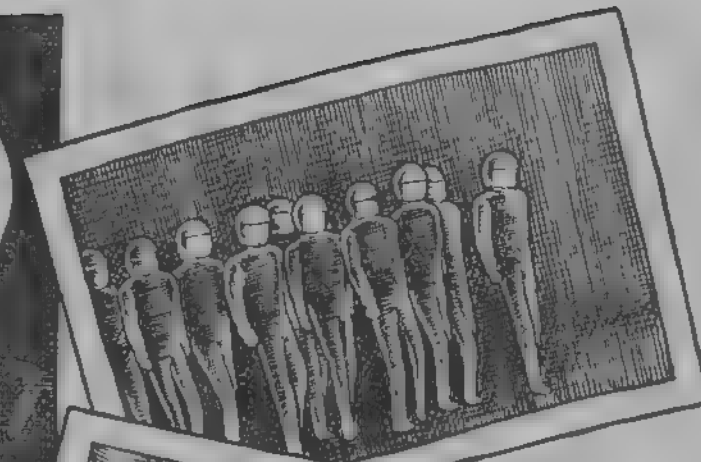
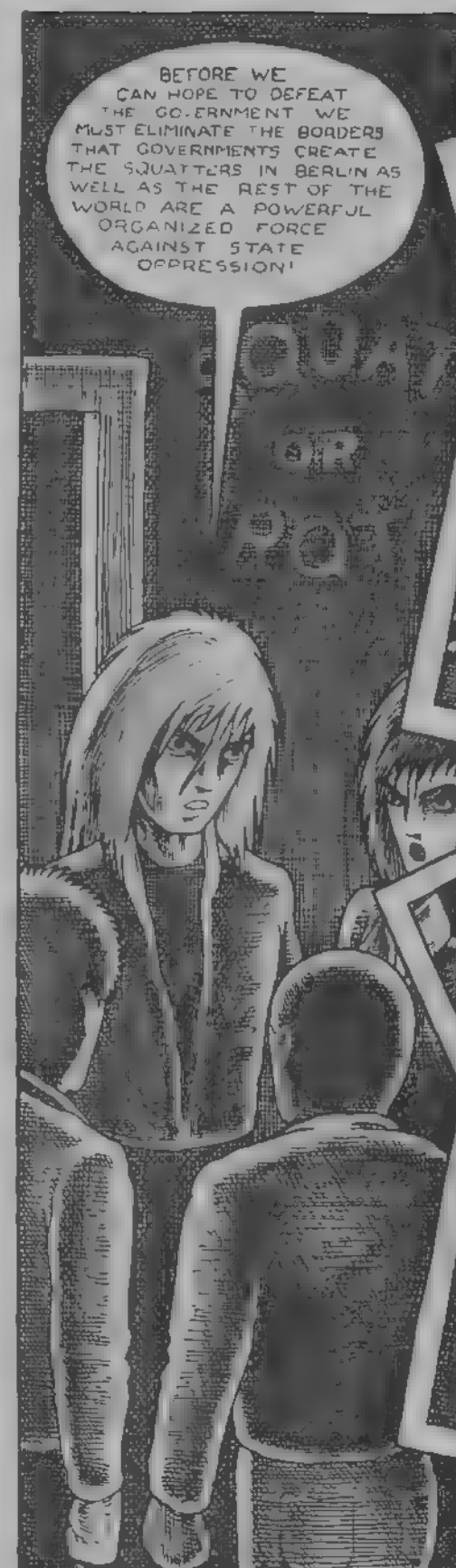
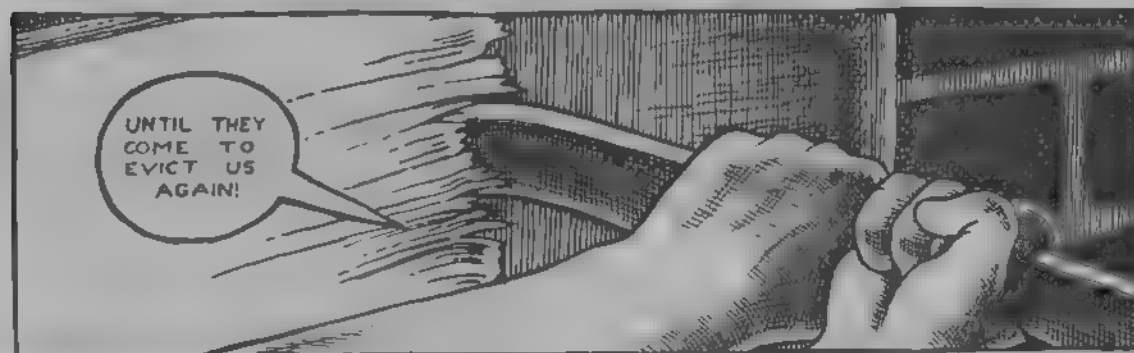
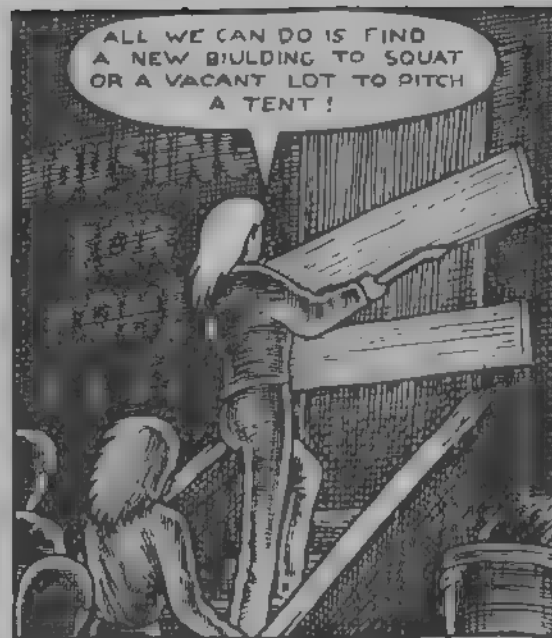


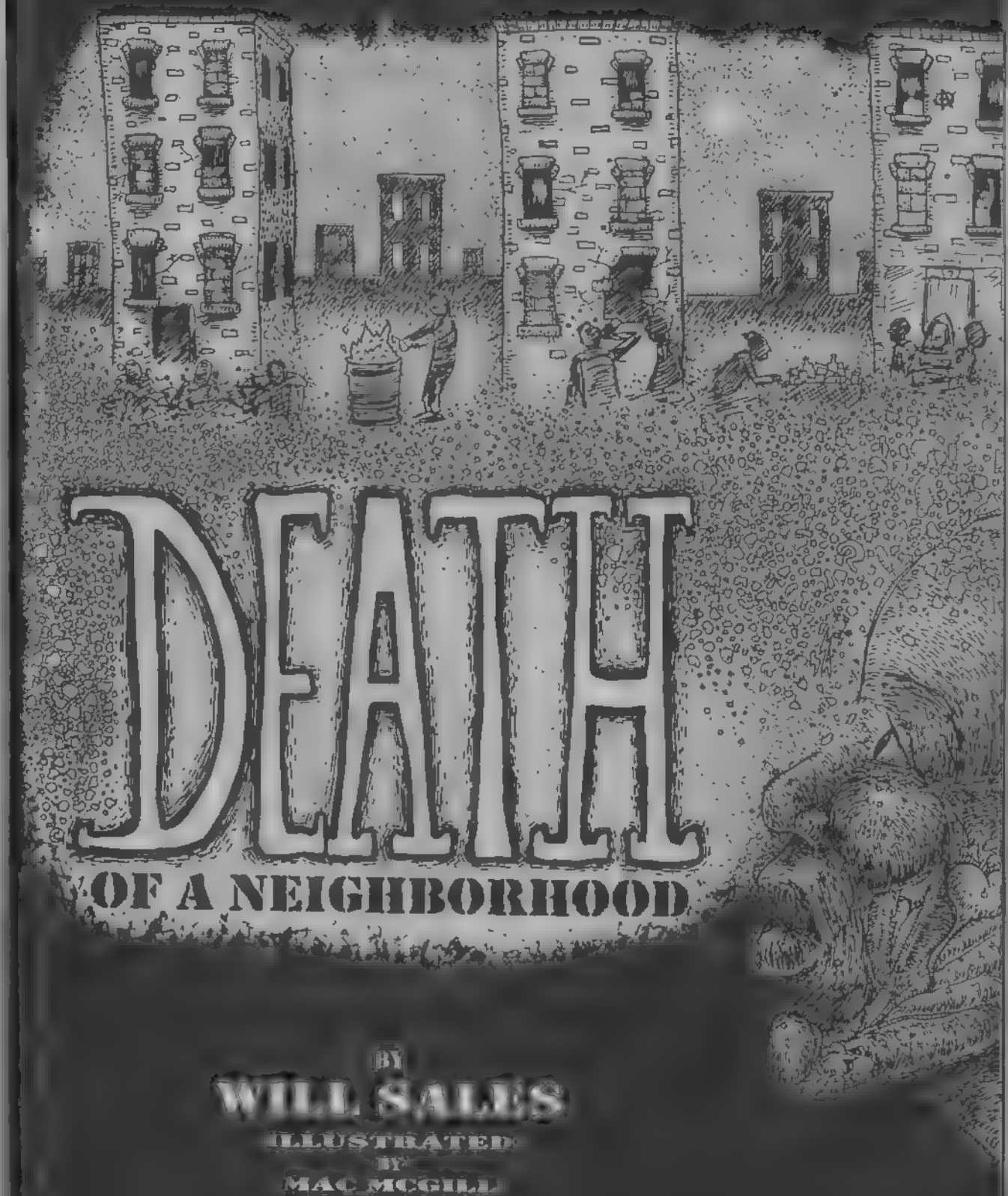
SQUAT NYC

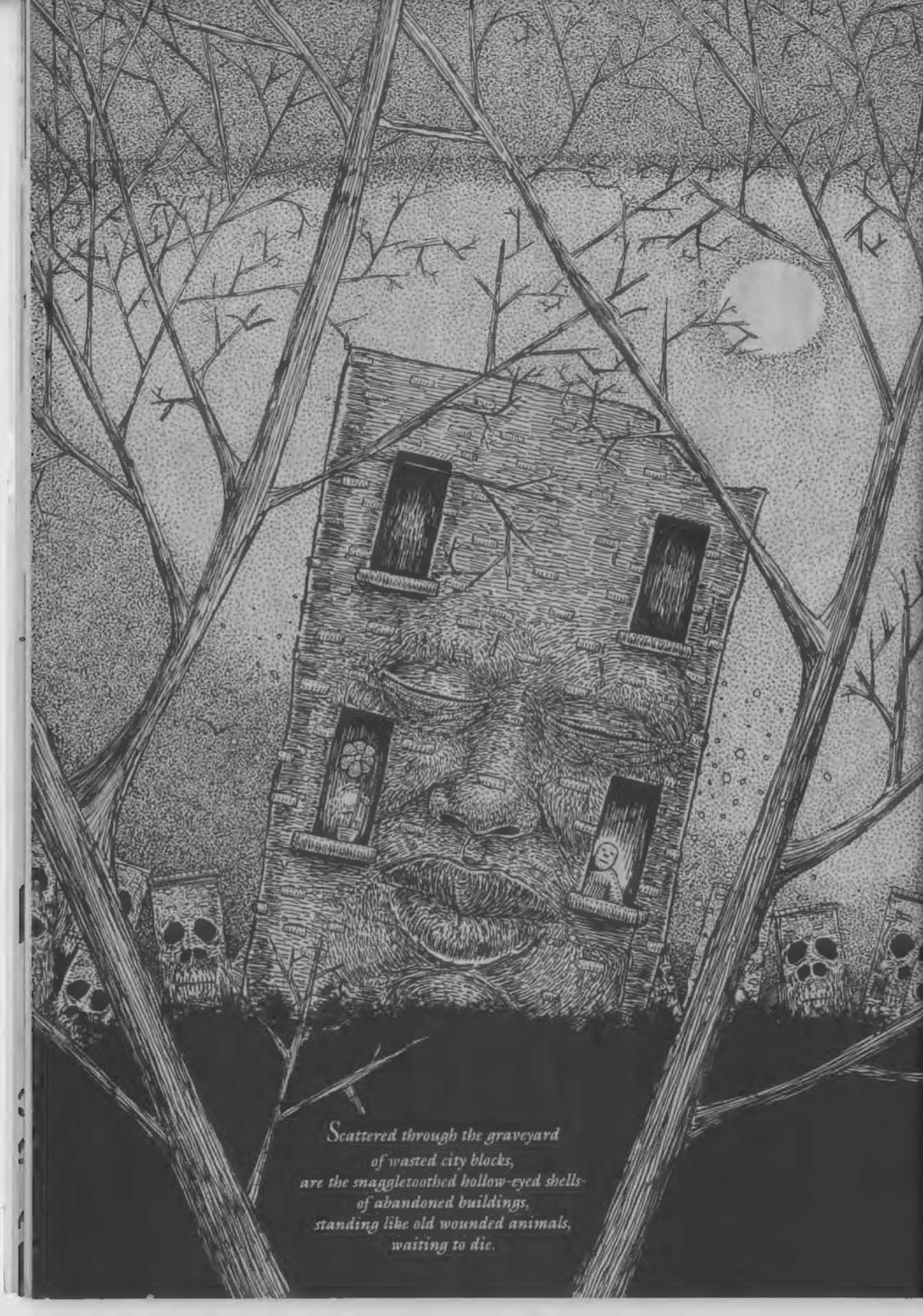
AND BEYOND

LAWRENCE VAN ABBEMA '91

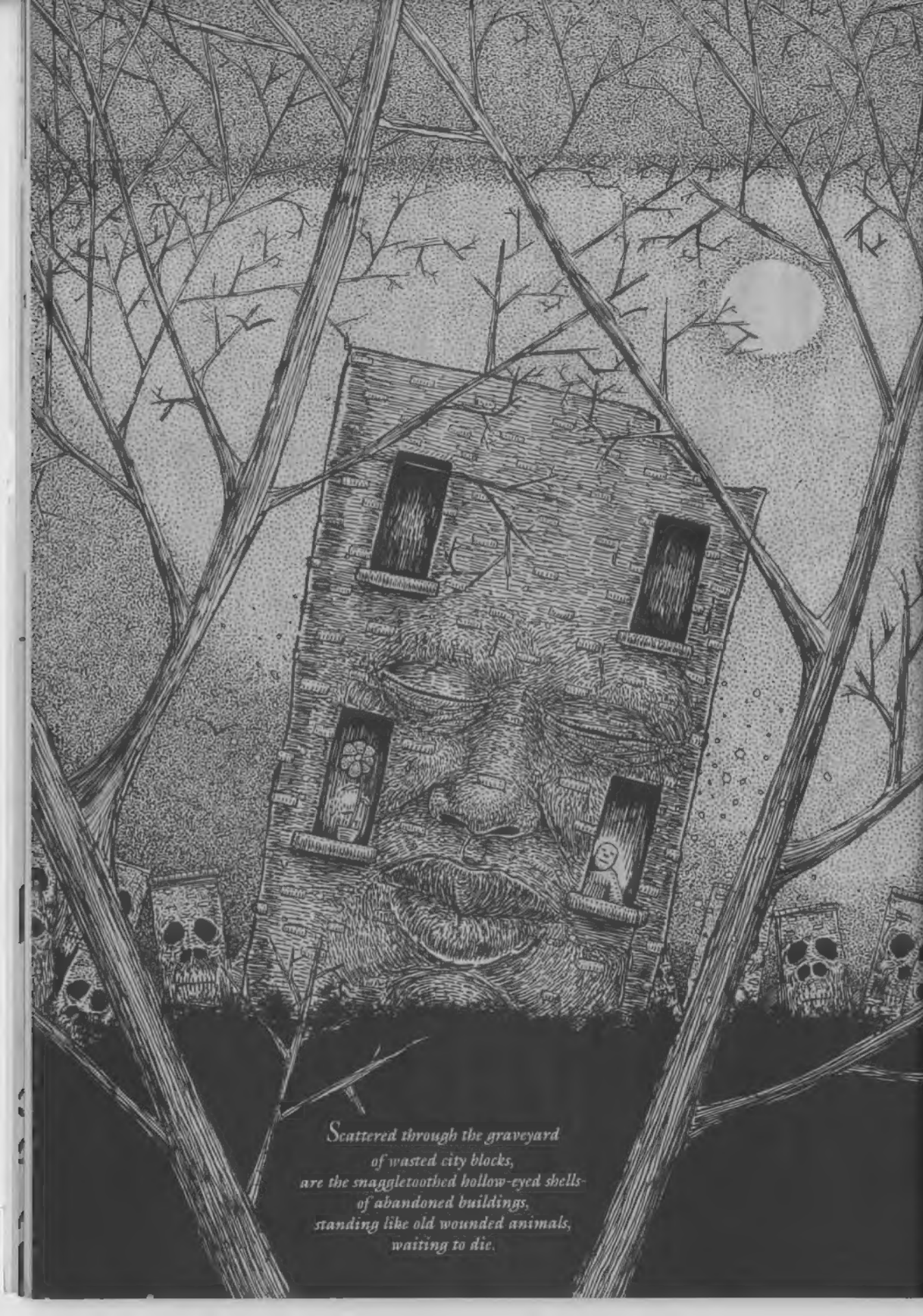








Scattered through the graveyard
of wasted city blocks,
are the snaggleteethed hollow-eyed shells
of abandoned buildings,
standing like old wounded animals,
waiting to die.



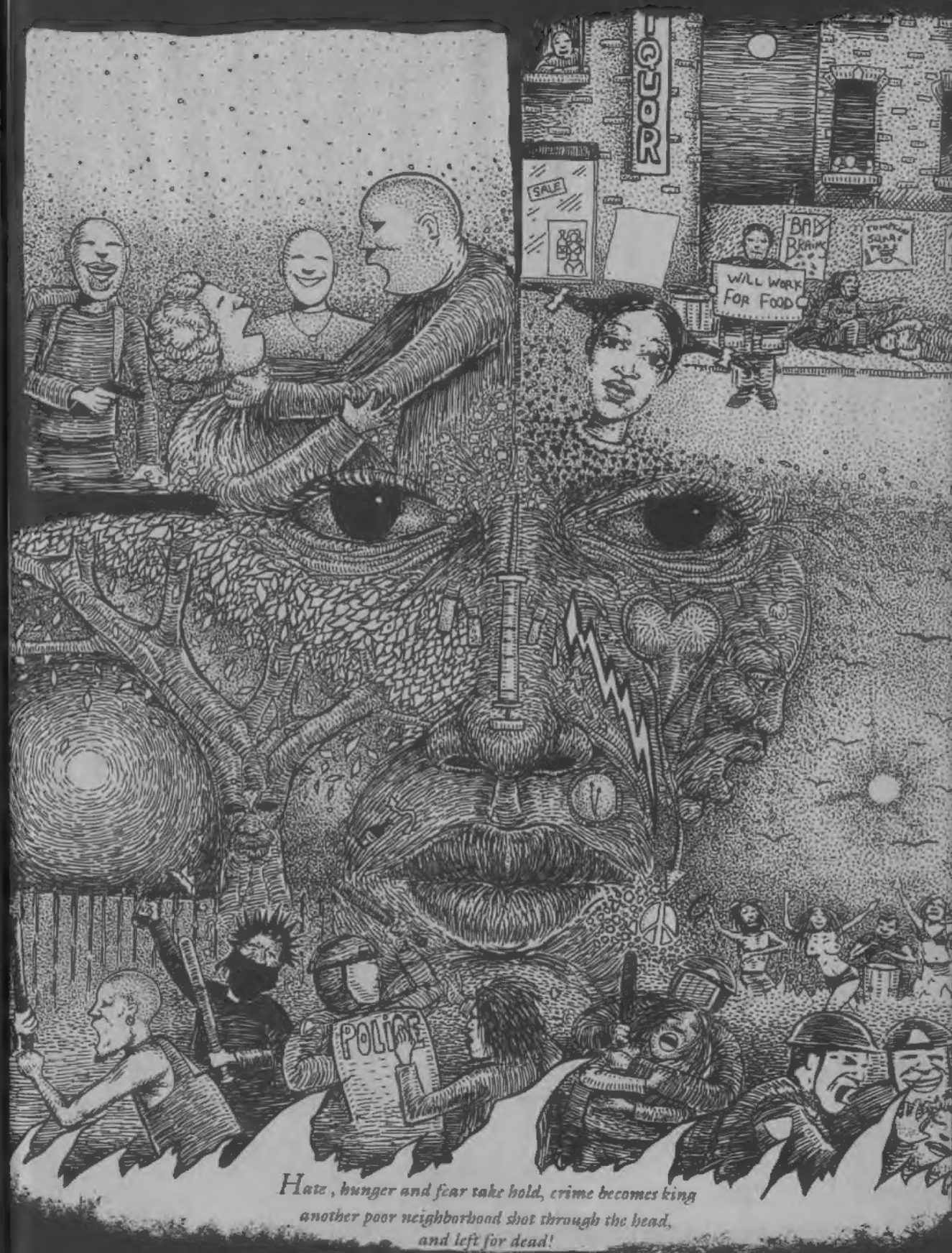
What the hell happened here?"
You say to a passerby,
He looks you dead in the eyes and replies,
"They raped and murdered
another neighborhood."

First they withdrew support,
churches, schools and banks closed down
and relocated
in another part of town.

Landlords strangle their buildings to death

by cutting off gas, electric and heat,

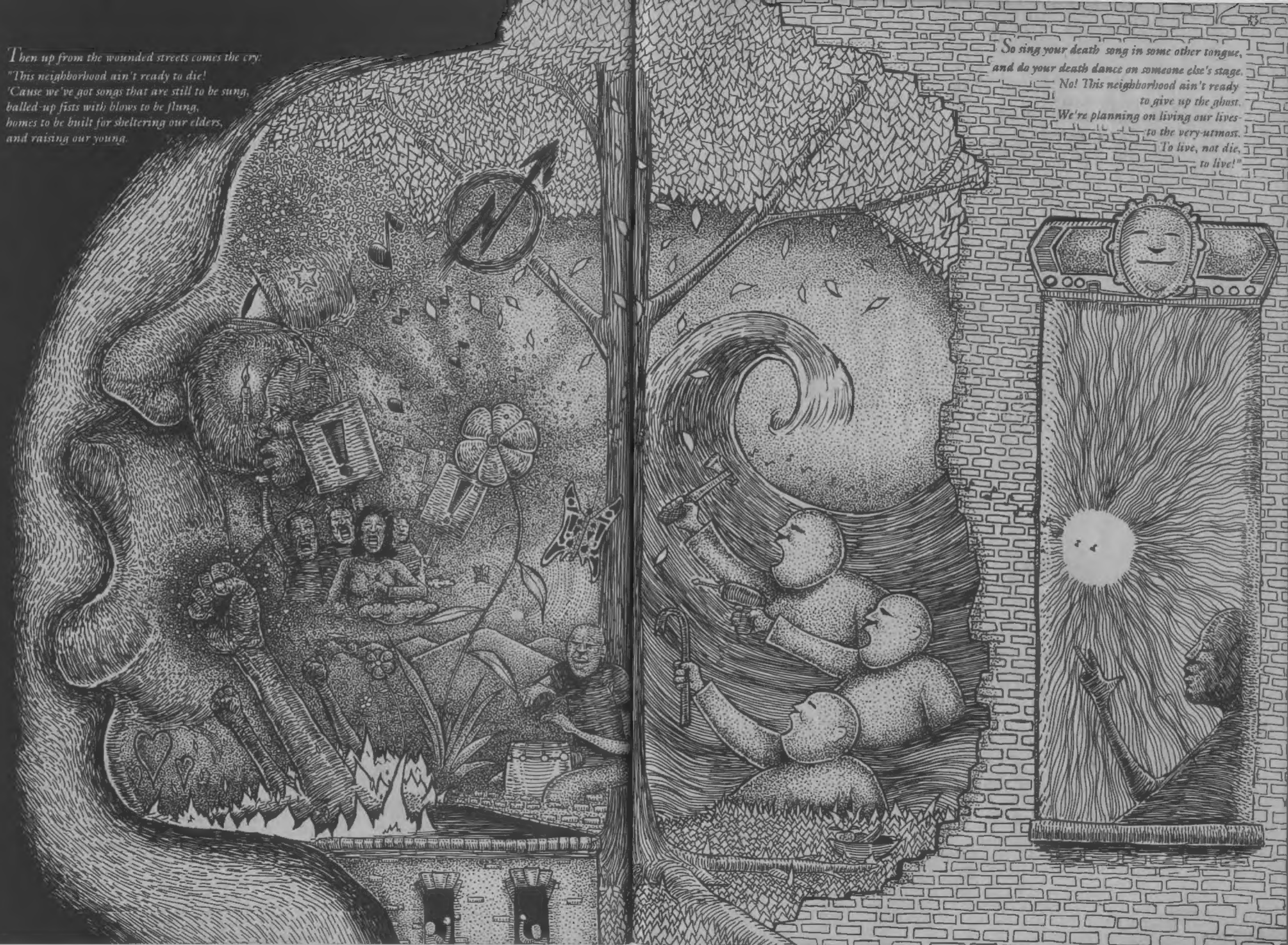
sending the once-happy tenants, into the graveyard streets.



Hate, hunger and fear take hold, crime becomes king
another poor neighborhood shot through the head,
and left for dead!

Then up from the wounded streets comes the cry:
"This neighborhood ain't ready to die!
'Cause we've got songs that are still to be sung,
balled-up fists with blows to be slung,
homes to be built for sheltering our elders,
and raising our young.

So sing your death song in some other tongue,
and do your death dance on someone else's stage.
No! This neighborhood ain't ready
to give up the ghost.
We're planning on living our lives
to the very utmost.
To live, not die,
to live!



BY
COSMO